

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 17-20 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 11, 14-16 and 26 as indicated below (material to be inserted is in underline, material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~):

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The spittoon of claim 26, wherein the precipitating agent is incorporated in an absorbent pad within the reservoir.
10. (Previously Presented) The spittoon of claim 26, wherein the precipitating agent is calcium nitrate or magnesium nitrate.
11. (Currently Amended) The spittoon of claim 8 14, wherein the lip extends inwardly around an upper perimeter of the spittoon and defines a spittoon entrance.

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Serial No. 10/066,216
HP Docket No. 10011355-1
KH Docket No. HPCC 327

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The spittoon of claim 13, where, when the lid is retracted, the lid~~ A spittoon for servicing a printhead, the spittoon comprising:

a bottom;

one or more walls, each wall having a top edge, the walls in combination with the bottom defining a waste ink reservoir having a capacity;

an inwardly extending lip at the top edge of at least one wall configured to retain a volume of waste ink when the spittoon is tilted toward the lip; and

a retractable lid which, when retracted, is enclosed in a portion of the spittoon that is distinct from the waste ink reservoir.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The spittoon of claim 8,~~ A spittoon for servicing a printhead, the spittoon comprising:

a bottom;

one or more walls, each wall having a top edge, the walls in combination with the bottom defining a waste ink reservoir having a capacity;

an inwardly extending lip at the top edge of at least one wall configured to retain a volume of waste ink when the spittoon is tilted toward the lip; and

where the reservoir is configured such that when the spittoon is tilted toward the lip at an angle up to ninety degrees, the lip retains a volume of waste ink equal to approximately one-quarter of the capacity of the waste ink reservoir.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The spittoon of claim 8.~~ A spittoon for servicing a printhead, the spittoon comprising:

a bottom;

one or more walls, each wall having a top edge, the walls in combination with the bottom defining a waste ink reservoir having a capacity;

an inwardly extending lip at the top edge of at least one wall configured to retain a volume of waste ink when the spittoon is tilted toward the lip; and

where the reservoir is configured such that when the spittoon is tilted toward the lip at an angle up to forty-five degrees, the lip retains a volume of waste ink equal to approximately one-half of the capacity of the waste ink reservoir.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

means for spitting ink into a spittoon;

means for retaining said previously spit ink within said spittoon during tilting of said inkjet printing mechanism at an angle of up to 45 degrees; and

means within said spittoon for initiating a precipitation reaction with at least one component of said previously spit ink.

22. (Original) A method of utilizing a spittoon in an inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

spitting ink into the spittoon positioned in a spit orientation;

accumulating a supply of ink in said spittoon;

precipitating at least one component of said ink in said spittoon;
removing said spittoon with said supply from the inkjet printing mechanism;
during said removing, tilting said spittoon from said spit orientation; and
during said tilting, retaining said supply within said spittoon.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said spittoon is tilted at up to 90 degrees.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said spittoon is tilted in more than one direction.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising dumping said supply and replacing said spittoon in said inkjet printing mechanism.

26. (Currently Amended) The spittoon of claim 8 14, further comprising a precipitating agent within the reservoir, wherein the precipitating agent is a salt of a multivalent cation or a multivalent organic acid.